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Especially for Homemakers

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Especially for...



HOMEMAKERS

by Candace Hurley
Homemaking Editor

White Sales A'Coming!

SHEETS AHOY! The white sales are with us again. If you have bargains in mind, tuck these notes into your pocketbook when you go shopping.

Sheets? Contour sheets always come preshrunk. Before you buy contour sheets, be sure of the sizes of the mattresses at home and get the sheets to fit. Not so, however, with regular sheets. Don't let that 108-inch length fool you. That's torn—not hemmed—length. The difference after hemming is about 5 inches. Check on shrinkage, too. It's not uncommon for a 108-inch sheet to shrink 5 to 7 inches. Result: a sheet 98 inches or less in length—barely enough for tuck under.

Blankets? Some blankets now carry special tags. A rayon-blend blanket, for example, may carry an Avisco Integrity Tag. Or an Acrilan blanket may carry the Chemstrand Seal of Quality. Both assure that the blanket has passed quality-control tests and that it will give good service. Every blanket sold *must* now carry complete fiber identification information. It's the law!

Electric blankets? Almost all carry 1- to 2-year guarantees, according to the manufacturer. Note what the guarantee says. It should mean replacement with a new,

equal-value blanket if anything goes wrong because of an inherent flaw in the blanket or its mechanism. All electric blankets should carry the Underwriters' Laboratory seal of approval which assures you that the blankets have been wired properly.

Towels? In relation to price, make two special observations at the towel counter. (1) Look at the fiber count (lengthwise and crosswise threads per inch). A heavy towel isn't necessarily one of top quality. It's possible for a lightweight towel, with a greater number of threads per inch, to give better service than a heavier towel of looser weave. (2) Check the selvage; it gets the hardest wear. A good towel has extra threads in the selvage. The edge is firmly woven. Low-quality towels sometimes are woven to twice the width of a regular towel, with a plain strip down the center. Then they're cut apart to make two towels, and the new edge is stitched or hemmed.

Tablecloths? There should be a fiber identification label on all tablecloths and mats—even during a sale. You should be able to tell whether you're getting a pure linen cloth for less money than ordinarily. Any cotton cloth can be given a permanent lintless finish to resemble linen. So check the label. Which are you getting for the bargain price?

Bedspreads? All bedspreads, quilts and coverlets also must carry a fiber identification label. It should also give you adequate information on color fastness of the fabric. Check on the shrinkage information, too.

Appearance Counts . . .

NEW YEAR's resolutions may be the kind you "take or leave." But it's difficult to ignore the desire to have an attractive personal appearance. Many a resolution has been made on this score, and for several reasons. Here are five good reasons, or rewards, for anyone to improve personal appearance. They're quoted from the booklet, "Look Your Best—A Well Groomed Woman" (available from your county extension office or the Publications Distribution Room, Iowa State University).

(1) We feel better; work better because we look our best. (2) Self-confidence and poise result. (3) We feel happier, and happiness is contagious. (4) We can work more effectively and get better cooperation from others. (5) We impress others more favorably, and our ideas and convictions take on added importance as a result.

It's said that some women get a new hat to boost their morale; others buy shoes. But it's logical that a real tonic to pride and self-respect can be just knowing that you look your best.

More About Those Hazardous Substances:

HERE'S AN added note about the new "Hazardous Substances Labeling Act." Merchants had until just about the time you receive this issue (Feb. 1) to label *all* hazardous substances in addition to those which are highly toxic, extremely flammable or flammable. (For more complete information on hazardous substance labeling, refer to your July 1961 issue of IOWA FARM SCIENCE.) The new law—just now going into effect—requires that all possibly poisonous or injurious products used in the home be labeled.

Coming Up . . .

. . . A NEW booklet that'll help you solve many of your color problems in furnishing or decorating your home. Its name: "Live With Color." Don't order yet; we'll let you know in IOWA FARM SCIENCE when it's available. It will be ready, though, before you do your spring housecleaning.

Sewing Time Ahead!

IT'S THAT TIME *again*. Thoughts turn to sewing as glimpses of new fashions and fabrics start showing up in the magazines and stores. Now's a good time to review what you do or don't know about buying patterns and fabrics. Some of the fabrics with "finishes" to make them more resistant to soiling and creasing, for example, also provide some sewing problems. Also, not all fabrics are printed straight with the grainline of the cloth. Two leaflets to give you some guides are: "Pattern Selection" and "Selection and Preparation of Fabric." Both are available from your county extension office or from the Publications Distribution Room here at Iowa State.

Your Child— And His Money . . .

SHOULD CHILDREN receive money for doing chores around the home? Should they be "paid" for good school grades? How old before a child should get an allowance?

These questions were asked recently at a parent-teacher discussion of "Children and Their Money." The parents were concerned with helping their youngsters develop a realistic concept of money—one that teaches them to value money for what it can do rather than a thing in itself.

There are many ways a child may acquire money. Some are negative, such as the begging approach of "buy me this" or the practice of "working" one parent against the other. A child may bargain for money in exchange for the completion of household chores or even embarrass his parents in front of friends.

There are more positive meth-

ods, too. Probably the most common is an allowance.

It's a good idea. Give your child an allowance. If you don't think you can afford it, check up. Keep track of what you spend on him anyway. The advantage of a definite allowance is that your youngster has the opportunity to learn how to treat his money sanely and wisely. This is a gradual learning process through experience. Begin his allowance when he shows an interest in money plus the ability to make some intelligent choices in its use. Usually, this is after a child starts school—about at the age of 6 or 7.

The allowance should be small, and it should be regular right from the start. Decide together, ahead of time, what the allowance is to cover and when it will be given. At first, a child will need his allowance in several "payments" per week. As his age and experience increase, the length of time between payments may be stretched.

Children can be encouraged to plan their use of money so that it will go further. Naturally, there'll be some mistakes. But the child's knowledge of how to handle money will grow with maturity—if he's taught a threefold purpose of money management: to SPEND, to SAVE, to SHARE.

Keep chores separate. Explain to your child that he's given an

allowance because he's a member of your family; therefore, he's receiving a small share of the family income. But keep the allowance separate from household tasks. All need to pitch in and contribute a share toward the operation of the home. Likewise, each should be entitled to some share of the family money for the things he wishes to buy.

When you subtract money or stop an allowance because a child shirks his assigned tasks or when you use it as punishment for behavior, it's being used as a weapon or disciplinary measure. When it's increased because he has performed beyond the call of duty, it becomes an award. Then the real purpose of an allowance—to teach him to use money well—is lost. If he does special jobs that you ordinarily hire done, then you might wish to pay him.

Not for school grades. One of a child's many responsibilities is to do as well as he can in school. It isn't one that should carry a monetary reward. In a family with several children, one may excel scholastically. If money is a reward, there may be a resentment among the other children. Actually, paying for school grades is an end in itself. What's wanted is for the children to seek knowledge for itself—not in return for a silver dollar.

—Nancy Lysen



What kinds of houses are farm families building these days? What do they like about them? What guideposts do they use, and what advice would they pass along to other farm families? Researchers at Iowa State have been asking such questions of Iowa farm families who've been in their new homes since 1957. Watch later issues of Iowa Farm Science for articles reporting these findings.